



"The Tourists Still Come, but They Don't Buy as Much as Before"

Vulnerability and Resilience in Two Bay Island Communities in the Wake of the Global Financial Crisis

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Agenda

- Contextual Orientation
- Background
- Methodology
- Political Turmoil and Tourism Sector Disruption
- Strong but Uneven Tourism Sector Recovery
- Diversified Household Livelihood Strategies
- Disparity of Opportunity in the Tourism Sector
- Discussion: in Broader Context
- Conclusion
- Questions and Contact Information

Contextual Orientation

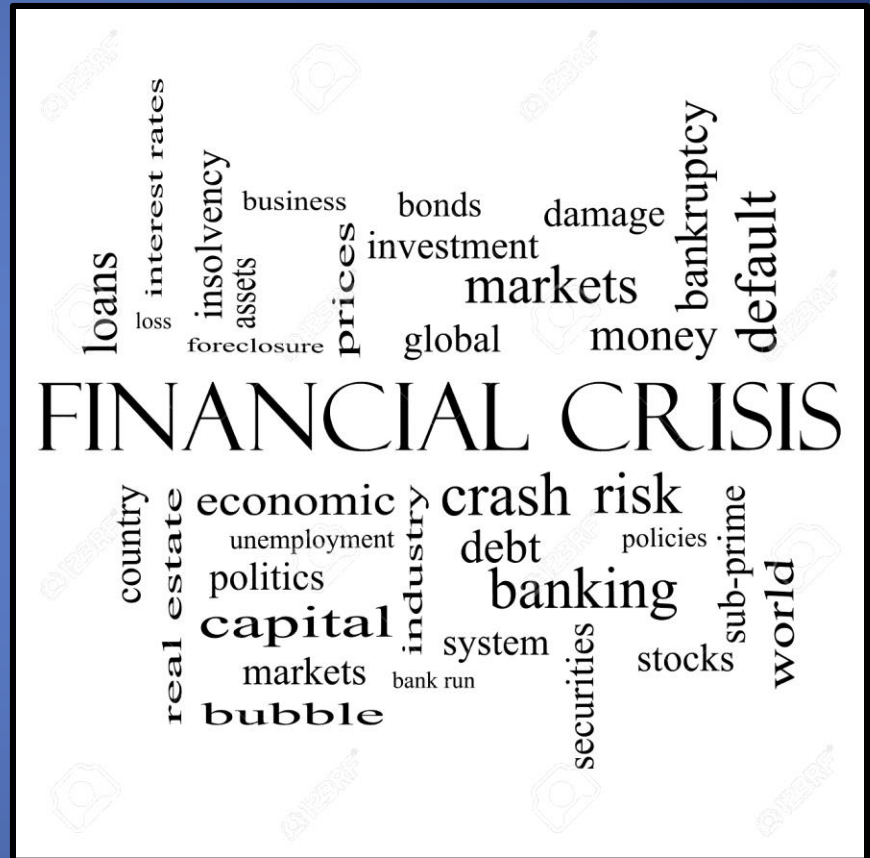


- This presentation Based on fieldwork conducted in the communities of West End and Punta Gorda on the island of Roatán, Islas de La Bahia (Bay Islands), Honduras
- Research Question: How has the financial crisis affected household ability to make a living, particularly in the tourism sector?
- Research Aim: assess how the Global Financial Crisis affected household livelihoods in different modalities of tourism work
- Researcher Context
 - Part of a larger dissertation project on livelihoods, dietary diversity and adequacy, food security, and nutritional status in the two communities
 - Pursuant to a PhD in applied anthropology from USF

Background



- Tourism, environment, and economy
- The Global Financial Crisis (Meltdown)
- Roatán and tourism
- Political ecology



Courtesy of
http://www.123rf.com/photo_26443458_financial-crisis-word-cloud-concept-in-black-and-white-with-great-terms-such-as-global-crash-risk-an.html



Methodology

- Dual sited ethnographic, mixed methods approach
- Quota sampling of cultural groups
- Data collection: participant observation, informal interviews, semi-structured interviews
- Data analysis: thematic, deductive, inductive

Political Turmoil and Tourism Sector Disruption



- Ouster of President “Mel” Zelaya and Tourism Shutdown



Courtesy of
[http://elvigilantedelpueblo.es.tl/
Cartas-de-Jos-e2--Manuel-
Zelaya.htm](http://elvigilantedelpueblo.es.tl/Cartas-de-Jos-e2--Manuel-Zelaya.htm)

Strong but Uneven Tourism Sector Recovery



Diversified Household Livelihood Strategies



Disparity of Opportunity in the Tourism Sector



- Ethnic and linguistic stratification in tourism work
- “I’d like to hire more Islanders and Hondurans, but they can’t pass the instructors’ exam...the educational system down here doesn’t give people the math skills they need to do this kind of work.”
- Performing and explaining differentiated



Discussion: in Broader Context

- Differential post-GFC in broader Central American context
- Steady versus sporadic tourism work
- Vacation packages and discretionary purchases
- Small scale enterprise struggles as lagging indicator
- No 'going back' from tourism?

Questions and Contact Information



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